

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is requested. Claim 26 has been added. Support for claim 26 may be found, for example, in original claim 1 and paragraph [0020] of the Specification. Support for the amendments made to claim 1 and 17 may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0012] and [0013] of the Specification.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 7 is objected to because it recites "when an external trigger pulse is generated at a time when a read-out of the CCD camera is to take place," whereas claim 1 recites "when an external trigger pulse occurs at a point in time at which no read-out of the CCD camera is to take place."

Applicant fails to understand the basis of the Examiner's objection. Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to paragraphs [0008-0009] of the Specification. According to example embodiments, an external trigger pulse may occur at a point in time at which a read-out of the CCD camera is taking place or at a point in time at which no read-out of the CCD camera is taking place. Based upon the above recited portions of the Specification, withdrawal of this objection is requested.

PRIOR ART BASED REJECTION

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 17, 18 and 20-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0186813 ("Tamura"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As amended, claim 1 requires, "an X-ray image amplifier having a fluorescent output screen," and "a CCD camera coupled via an optical system to the fluorescent output screen of the X-ray image amplifier." *Tamura* fails to teach or fairly suggest such a diagnostic system. By contrast, the diagnostic system of *Tamura* includes a CCD flat panel detector 5004. As the Examiner will appreciate, a flat panel detector is not equivalent to "an X-ray image amplifier having a fluorescent output screen," and "a CCD camera coupled to the fluorescent output screen of the X-ray image amplifier via an optical system," as required by claim 1.

Moreover, according to claim 1, the system control is configured to, *inter alia*, suppress, "a readout without a desired signal including image information," and trigger exposure of the CCD camera "directly by the external trigger pulse," if the time elapsed between a most recent reset pulse and an external trigger pulse is less than a duration of the readout of the CCD camera without a desired signal including image information. The Examiner relies upon interruption of the initialization process described in paragraph [0045] of *Tamura* to allegedly teach this feature. Final Office Action, U.S. Pat. & Trademark Office, p. 9 (Mar. 13, 2007). Applicant disagrees.

Referring to FIG. 23, during the initialization process, at time T1 capacitor 5021C is initialized in response to a refresh signal (refresh process). At time T2, dark current is generated, and accumulated as charge on the capacitor 5021C. At time T3, the charge accumulated on the capacitor 5021C is swept out (idle read). When an X-ray radiation switch is pressed during the

initialization process, and the X-ray radiation request signal goes 'Low,' the current initialization process is interrupted, and restarts from the beginning.

In *Tamura*, the idle readout is not suppressed in favor of direct triggering of exposure of the CCD camera by the external trigger pulse. To the contrary, in *Tamura*, when the initialization process is interrupted in response to pressing of the X-ray radiation switch, it restarts from the beginning and all of the above-described steps (i.e., the refresh and idle read-out) are performed. No suppressing or interruption of the idle readout takes place. The refresh process and idle readout still take place prior to X-ray radiation. See, e.g., *Tamura* at [0038].

Furthermore, in *Tamura* the resultant X-ray radiation is not "triggered directly by the external trigger pulse," as required by claim 1. As discussed above, if interrupted, the initialization process restarts from the beginning and the refresh process and idle read-out are still performed prior to X-ray radiation. *Id.*

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is patentable over *Tamura*. Claim 17 is patentable over *Tamura* for at least reasons somewhat similar to those set forth above. Claims 3, 18 and 20-24 are patentable over *Tamura* at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 1 or 17.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Tamura* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,117,446 ("Haaker"); claims 5 and 11 stand rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable

over Tamura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,412,978 ("Watanabe") and U.S. Patent No. 5,175,754 ("Casey"); claims 12 and 15 stand rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Tamura, Haaker, Watanabe and Casey.

With respect to claims 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 15 and 16, Applicant traverses this rejection in that even assuming the above-recited references could be combined as suggested by the Examiner (which Applicant does not admit), none of Haaker, Watanabe and/or Casey, taken singly or in combination, make up for the above-discussed deficiencies of Tamura with respect to claims 1 or 17. Accordingly, claims 4, 5, 7-11 are patentable over Tamura, Haaker, Watanabe and/or Casey.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicant has added new claim 26 by way of this response. New claim 26 is also believed to be patentable over the prior art. For example, claim 26 is directed to a diagnostic system for a device using X-radiation during examination, wherein, *inter alia*, "after transferring the accumulated charge, the actual exposure of the light-sensitive region of the image converter is performed, and actual readout of the accumulated charge corresponding to the exposure is performed and fed to the image system as a video signal." This feature is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art. In addition, although at least somewhat similar arguments to those set forth above may apply, claim 26 should be interpreted solely by limitations presented therein.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of the claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

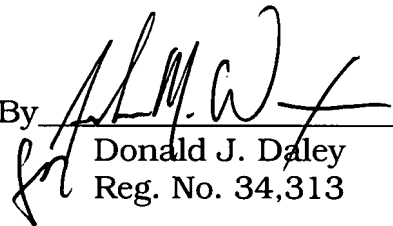
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), applicant hereby petitions for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$1,020.00 extension fee herewith.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Andrew M. Waxman, Reg. No. 56,007, at the number of the undersigned listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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